

U.S. Ser. No. 09/955,253
Reply to O. A. of Feb. 23, 2004

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Arty. Dkt. B06090-D
Applicants: Kreutz et al.

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-23: Cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 24 through 49 and Claims 61 through 73: Cancelled without prejudice.

50. (currently Amended). A depilation apparatus comprising

a housing,

a depilation member comprising hair-grasping elements for gripping hairs on human skin and pulling the hairs from the skin, and

a vibration member for exerting mechanical vibration on the skin to thereby provide an anaesthetizing effect on the skin while the hairs are being pulled from the skin by the depilation member, both the depilation member and the vibration member provided in the housing,

characterized in that wherein

the vibration member comprises flexible protrusions for contacting the skin which are disposed on a carrier, ~~said flexible protrusions having distal ends remote from said carrier and proximal ends adjacent said carrier whereby the distal ends are located above said proximal ends,~~

and wherein as seen along an axis,

said axis extending

outward from the depilation apparatus,

through the hair-grasping elements positioned in hair-gripping relation opposite the skin, and

to the skin being epilated,

no portion of the flexible protrusions is disposed between the hair-grasping elements and said skin being epilated, and

the vibration member vibrates while the carrier is cyclically brought towards and away from the skin during operation of the depilator apparatus to thereby vibrate the flexible protrusions and thereby exert mechanical vibrations on the skin where these vibrating flexible protrusions contact the skin.

51. (currently amended). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 50, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protrusions are disposed in a uniform pattern.

U.S. Ser. No. 09/955,253
Reply to O. A. of Feb. 23, 2004

Atty, Dkt. B06090-D
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52. (currently amended). A depilation apparatus comprising

a housing,
a depilation member for gripping hairs on human skin and pulling the hairs from the skin,
and

a vibration member for exerting mechanical vibration on the skin to thereby provide an anaesthetizing effect on the skin while the hairs are being pulled from the skin by the depilation member, both the depilation member and the vibration member provided in the housing,

~~characterized in that wherein~~

the vibration member comprises flexible protrusions for contacting the skin which are disposed on a carrier,

the vibration member vibrates while the carrier is cyclically brought towards and away from the skin during operation of the depilator apparatus to thereby vibrate the flexible protrusions and thereby exert mechanical vibrations on the skin where these vibrating flexible protrusions contact the skin,

wherein the protrusions are disposed in a uniform pattern, and

wherein the protrusions have, adjacent a distal free end thereof, a conical shape.

53. (currently Amended). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 51, comprising

~~a housing,~~

~~a depilation member for gripping hairs on human skin and pulling the hairs from the skin,~~
and

~~a vibration member for exerting mechanical vibration on the skin to thereby provide an anaesthetizing effect on the skin while the hairs are being pulled from the skin by the depilation member, both the depilation member and the vibration member provided in the housing,~~

~~characterized in that~~

~~the vibration member comprises flexible protrusions for contacting the skin which are disposed on a carrier,~~

~~the vibration member vibrates while the carrier is cyclically brought towards and away from the skin during operation of the depilator apparatus to thereby vibrate the flexible protrusions and thereby exert mechanical vibrations on the skin where these vibrating flexible protrusions contact the skin,~~

~~wherein the protrusions are disposed in a uniform pattern, and~~

~~wherein the protrusions each have a rounded end portion.~~

U.S. Ser. No. 09/955,253
Reply to O. A. of Feb. 23, 2004

Atty. Dkt. B06090-D
Applicants: Kreutz et al.

54. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the protrusions comprise a resilient plastics material.

55. (currently amended). A depilation apparatus comprising

a housing,

a depilation member for gripping hairs on human skin and pulling the hairs from the skin,
and

a vibration member for exerting mechanical vibration on the skin to thereby provide an anaesthetizing effect on the skin while the hairs are being pulled from the skin by the depilation member, both the depilation member and the vibration member provided in the housing,

~~characterized in that wherein~~

the vibration member comprises flexible protrusions for contacting the skin which are disposed on a carrier,

the vibration member vibrates while the carrier is cyclically brought towards and away from the skin during operation of the depilator apparatus to thereby vibrate the flexible protrusions and thereby exert mechanical vibrations on the skin where these vibrating flexible protrusions contact the skin, and wherein

each of the protrusions has, adjacent a distal free end thereof, a conical shape.

56. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein the protrusions each have a rounded end portion.

57. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein the protrusions comprise a resilient plastics material.

58. (currently Amended). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 50, comprising

~~a housing,~~

~~a depilation member for gripping hairs on human skin and pulling the hairs from the skin,~~
and

~~a vibration member for exerting mechanical vibration on the skin to thereby provide an anaesthetizing effect on the skin while the hairs are being pulled from the skin by the depilation member, both the depilation member and the vibration member provided in the housing,~~

~~characterized in that~~

U.S. Ser. No. 09/955,253
Reply to O. A. of Feb. 23, 2004

Atty. Dkt. B06090-D
Applicants: Kreutz et al.

~~the vibration member comprises flexible protrusions for contacting the skin which are disposed on a carrier,~~

~~the vibration member vibrates while the carrier is cyclically brought towards and away from the skin during operation of the depilator apparatus to thereby vibrate the flexible protrusions and thereby exert mechanical vibrations on the skin where these vibrating flexible protrusions contact the skin, and~~

wherein the protrusions each have a rounded end portion.

59. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 58, wherein the protrusions comprise a resilient plastics material.

60. (currently amended). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 50, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protrusions comprise a resilient plastics material.

Claims 61 through 73: Cancelled without prejudice.

74. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein the protrusions each have a rounded end portion.

75. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein the protrusions comprise a resilient plastics material.

76. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 53, wherein the protrusions have, adjacent a distal free end thereof, a conical shape.

77. (previously presented). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 53, wherein the protrusions comprise a resilient plastics material.

U.S. Ser. No. 09/955,253
Reply to O. A. of Feb. 23, 2004

Atty. Dkt. B06090-D
Applicants: Kreutz et al.

78. (New). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 50, wherein the flexible protrusions are spaced adjacent the hair-grasping elements so that the hair-grasping elements in use are able to contact the skin.

79. (New). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 50, wherein said flexible protrusions have distal ends remote from said carrier and proximal ends adjacent said carrier, whereby the distal ends are located above said proximal ends, and a height dimension of the protrusions along a direction extending from the proximal end away from carrier towards the distal end exceeds a width dimension of the protrusion transverse the carrier adjacent the proximal end.

80. (New). A depilation apparatus as claimed in claim 79, wherein the height dimension exceeds the width dimension as seen in both orthogonal directions generally perpendicular the height dimension transverse the carrier adjacent the proximal end.